NUMB. CCCXXXVII.

The SPECTATOR.

Fingit equum tenerâ docilem cervice Magiſter
Ire viam quam monſtrat eques —— Hor.

Thurſday, March 27. 1712.

I Have lately received a third Letter from the Gentleman, who has already given the Publick two Eſſays upon Education. As his Thoughts ſeem to be wholly new upon this Subject, I ſhall communicate them to the Reader.

SIR,

If I had not been hindred by ſome extraordinary Buſineſs, I ſhould have ſent you ſooner my former Thoughts upon Education. You may eaſe to remember, that in my laſt Letter I endeavoured to give the beſt Reaſons that could be urged in favour of a Private or Publick Education. Upon the whole it may perhaps be thought that I inclined rather enclin'd to the latter, tho' at the ſame time I confeſſed that Vertue, which ought to be our firſt and principal Care, was more uſually acquir'd in the former.

I intend, therefore in this Letter, to offer at Methods by which I conceive Boys might be made to improve in Virtue as they advance in Letters. I know that in moſt of our Publick Schools Vice is puniſhed and diſcouraged whenever it is found out; but this is far from being ſufficient, unleſs our Youth are at the ſame time taught to form a right Judgment of Things, and to know what is properly Virtue.

To this end, whenever they read the Lives and Actions of ſuch Men as have been famous in their Generation, it ſhould not be thought enough to make them barely underſtand ſo many *Greek* or *Latin* Sentences, but they ſhould be asked their Opinion of ſuch an Action or Saying, and obliged to give their Reaſons why they take it to be good or bad. By this means they would inſenſibly arrive at proper Notions of Courage, Temperance, Honour and Juſtice.

'There muſt be great Care taken how the Example of any particular Perſon is recommended to them in groſs; inſtead of which they ought to be taught wherein ſuch a Man, tho' great in ſome reſpects, was weak and faulty in others. For want of this Caution, a Boy is often ſo dazzled with the Luſtre of a great Character, that he contracts its Beauties with its Blemiſhes, and looks even upon the faulty parts of it with an Eye of Admiration.

'I have often wondered how *Alexander*, who was naturally of a generous and merciful Diſpoſition, came to be guilty of ſo barbarous an Action as that of dragging the Governor of a Town after his Chariot. I know this is generally aſcribed to his Paſſion for *Homer*; but I lately met with a Paſſage in *Plutarch*, which, if I am not very much miſtaken, ſtill gives us a clearer light into the Motives of this Action. *Plutarch* tells us, that *Alexander* in his Youth had a Maſter named *Lyſimachus*, who though he was a Man deſtitute of all Politeneſs, ingratiated himſelf both with *Phœnix* and his Pupil, and became the ſecond Man at Court, by calling the King *Peleus*, the Prince *Achilles*, and himſelf *Phœnix*. It is no wonder if *Alexander*, having been thus uſed not only to aſſume but to perſonate *Achilles*, ſhould think it glorious to imitate him in this Piece of Cruelty and Extravagance.

'To carry this Thought yet further, I ſhall therefore ſubmit it to your Conſideration, whether inſtead of a Theam or Copy of Verſes, which are the uſual Exerciſes, as they are called in the School-phraſe, it would not be more proper that a Boy ſhould be tasked once or twice a Week to write down his Opinion of ſuch Perſons and Things as occur to him in his Reading; that he ſhould deſcant upon the Actions of *Turnus* or *Æneas*, ſhew wherein they excelled or were defective, cenſure or approve any particular Action, and obſerve how it might have been carried to a greater degree of Perfection; how it exceeded or fell ſhort of another. He might at the ſame time mark what was moral in any Speech, and how far it agreed with the Character of the Perſon ſpeaking. This Exerciſe would ſoon ſtrengthen his Judgment in what is blameable or praiſe-worthy, and give him an early Seaſoning of Morality.

'Next to thoſe Examples which may be met with in Books, I very much approve *Horace*'s way of ſetting before Youth the infamous or honourable Characters of their Contemporaries; that Poet tells us this was the Method his Father made uſe of to incline him to any particular Virtue, or give him an Averſion to any particular Vice. If, ſays *Horace*, my Father adviſed me to live within Bounds, and be contented with the Fortune he ſhould leave me; Do not you ſee (ſays he) the miſerable Condition of *Barrus*, and the Son of *Albus*? Let the Misfortunes of thoſe two Wretches teach you to avoid Luxury and Extravagance. If he would inſpire me with an Abhorrence to Debauchery, Do not (ſays he) make your ſelf like *Sectanus*, when you may be happy in the Enjoyment of lawful Pleaſures. How Scandalous, ſays he, is the Character of *Trebonius*, who was lately caught in bed with another Man's Wife? To illuſtrate the Force of this Method, the Poet adds, that as a headſtrong Patient, who will not at firſt follow his Phyſician's Preſcriptions, grows orderly when he hears that his Neighbours dye all about him, ſo Youth is often frighted from Vice by hearing the ill Report it brings upon others.

'*Xenophon*'s Schools of Equity, in his Life of *Cyrus* the Great, are ſufficiently famous; he tells us that the *Perſian* Children went to School, and employed their time as diligently in learning the Principles of Juſtice and Sobriety, as the Youth in other Countries did, to acquire the moſt difficult Arts and Sciences; their Governours ſpent moſt part of the Day in hearing their mutual Accuſations one againſt the other, whether for Violence, Cheating, Slander, or Ingratitude, and taught them how to give Judgment againſt thoſe who were found to be any ways guilty of theſe Crimes. I omit the Story of the long and ſhort Coat, for which *Cyrus* himſelf was puniſhed, as a Caſe equally known with any in *Littleton*.

'The Method which *Apuleius* tells us the *Indian Gymnoſophiſts* took to educate their Diſciples is ſtill more curious and remarkable. His Words are as follow. When their Dinner is ready, before it is ſerved up, the Maſters inquire of every particular Scholar, how he has employed his Time ſince

Sun-

'Sun-rising; some of them answer, that having 'been chosen as Arbiters between two Persons they 'have composed their Differences, and made them 'Friends; some, that they have been executing the 'Orders of their Parents; and others, that they 'have either found out something new, by their 'own Application, or learnt it from the Instruc-'tions of their Fellows: But if there happens to 'be any one among them, who cannot make it 'appear that he has employed the Morning to ad-'vantage, he is immediately excluded from the Com-'pany, and obliged to work, while the rest are at 'Dinner.

'It is not impossible that from these several ways 'of producing Virtue in the Minds of Boys, some 'general Method might be invented. What I 'would endeavour to inculcate is, that our Youth 'cannot be too soon taught the Principles of Vir-'tue, seeing the first Impressions which are made 'on the Mind are always the strongest.

'The Arch-bishop of *Cambray* makes *Telemachus* 'say, that tho' he was young in Years he was old 'in the Art of knowing how to keep both his own 'and his Friends Secrets. When my Father, says 'the Prince, went to the Siege of *Troy*, he took 'me on his Knees, and after having embraced 'and blessed me, as he was surrounded by the No-'bles of *Ithaca*, O my Friends, says he, into your 'Hands I commit the Education of my Son; If e-'ver you lov'd his Father shew it in your Care to-'wards him, but above all, do not omit to form 'him just, sincere, and faithful in keeping a Secret. 'These Words of my Father, says *Telemachus*, 'were continually repeated to me by his Friends in 'his Absence; who made no scruple of communi-'cating to me their Uneasiness to see my Mother 'surrounded with Lovers, and the measures they 'designed to take on that Occasion. He adds, that 'he was so ravished at being thus treated like a 'Man, and at the Confidence reposed in him, that he 'never once abused it; nor could all the Insinua-'tions of his Father's Rivals ever get him to betray 'what was committed to him under the Seal of Se-'crecy.

'There is hardly any Virtue which a Lad might 'not thus learn by Practice and Example.

'I have heard of a good Man, who used at cer-'tain times to give his Scholars Six Pence a-piece, 'that they might tell him the next Day how they 'had employ'd it. The third part was always to 'be laid out in Charity, and every Boy was blamed 'or commended as he could make it appear that he 'had chosen a fit Object.

'In short, nothing is more wanting to our Pub-'lick Schools, than that the Masters of them should 'use the same Care in fashioning the Manners of 'their Scholars, as in forming their Tongues to the 'learned Languages. Where-ever the former is o-'mitted, I cannot help agreeing with Mr. *Lock*, That 'a Man must have a very strange value for Words, 'when preferring the Languages of the *Greeks* and '*Romans* to that which made them such brave Men, 'he can think it worth while to hazard the Innocence 'and Virtue of his Son for a little *Greek* and *Latin*.

'As the Subject of this Essay is of the highest Im-'portance, and what I do not remember to have 'yet seen treated by any Author, I have sent you 'what occurr'd to me on it from my own Ob-'servation or Reading, and which you may either 'suppress or publish as you think fit.

I am, SIR, Yours, &c.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this pre-sent Thursday, the 27th Day of March, will be presented a new Tragedy call'd, The Distrest Mother. By Her Majesty's Com-mand no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, this present Thursday, being the 27th of March, will be perform'd an Opera called Hydaspes, the Part of Darius to be gest-ur'd by Mr. Boschetti, Baldassari, Servant to his Highness the Elector, newly arriv'd. Pit and Boxes to be put together: And no Body admitted without Tickets; which will be deliver'd out at the Theatre this Day, at half a Guinea each. To begin exactly at Six. By Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT Punch's Theatre in the Little Piazza, Covent Garden, this present Thursday, will be presented the last Opera that was by Subscription, called, The Beauteous Sycilian, in which Punch performs the part of Captain. All the Figures being new, and their Dresses agreeable to their Characters. With a new Machinary after the British Manner, contrived and just finish'd by Powell, which represents a Paradice wonderful Surprising. At the opening of the Clouds arise several Triumphal Arches, which form several most agreeable Prospects; beautify'd by her most Sacred Majesty Great Britain in her Royal Robes, attended by her Peers and Officers of State; under their Feet are represented the Trophies taken from the French and Bavarians by her Majesty's Arms this War. And a Prologue spoken by Powell by way of Ænigma, which gives a Description of Punches Family. Beginning exactly at six, conclusing by half hour after eight. Boxes 2 s. 6d. Pit 1 s. 6 d. No Money to be return'd after the Curtain is Drawn up; Nor any Entrance at the door of the Machines without Paying the full Price.

Lately brought over, and to be Sold, three Pieces of the Virgin Mary in full lengths, curiously Painted after a Roman manner, &c; to be seen from the 27th to the 31st Instant, at Mr. Cradle's, Silversmith in Charles Court in the Strand.

A curious Collection of Pictures of various Masters, belonging to a private Gentleman, will be exposed to Sale this Day, the 27th Instant, at the Dwelling-house of the late famous Mr. Boys, at the corner of the Little Piazza in Russel street, Covent Garden. Catalogues of which will be delivered out at Mr. Cooper's at the Three Pidgeons in Bedford-street, and the Place of Sale. N. B. Any Pictures are submitted to recommend themselves, it will be needless to assure the Ingenious that no unfair Practice will be used in the Sale.

Just Published,

Sixteen Sermons Preached before the University of Oxford, at St. Mary's, upon several Occasions. By William Lloyd, D. D. Fellow of C. C. C. Oxon, and Rector of Albury near Tame in Oxfordshire. Printed for Bernard Lintott at the Cross Keys between the two Temple Gates in Fleetstreet. Price 6 s. 6 d.

This Day is Published,

A Voyage to the South Sea, and round the World, performed in the Ships Duke and Dutchess of Bristol, in the Years 1708, 1709, 1710 and 1711. Containing a Journal of all memorable Actions during the said Voyage; the Winds, Currents and Variation of the Compass; the taking of the Towns of Puna and Guiaquil, several Prizes, one of which is a rich Acapulco Ship. A Description of the American Coasts, from Tierra del Fuego in the South, to California in the North. (from the Coasting Pilot, a Spanish Manuscript) An Historical Account of all those Countries from the best Authors. With a new Map and Description of the mighty River of the Amazons. Wherein an Account is given of Mr. Alexander Selkirk's Manner of living and coming some wild Beasts during the four Years and four Months he lived upon the uninhabited Island of Juan Fernandez. Illustrated with Cuts and Maps. By Captain Edward Cooke. Printed for B. Lintott and R. Gosling in Fleetstreet, A. Bettesworth on London-bridge, and W. Innys in St. Paul's Church-yard.

To be Sold, the Manors of Southcave and Ellerker in Southcave, in the East-Riding of York, amounting to upwards of 400 l. p r Annum. Enquire of Mr. John Greenwood, Attorney in Wood-street London, or Mr. Fran. Langley in York.

The most safe and profitable Sale of Numerous three Books will be opened at the Golden Crown the upper end of Bow-street, Covent Garden, on Friday next, the 28th Instant, for the Advantage of all Purchasers, who will receive Cent. per Cent. for the Monies they advance, as by Proposals to be had gratis at the aforesaid will appear. Attendance is given from 8 in the Morning to 12, and from 2 to 8 at Night. Note, That Memorandums will be given out to make Payment in four Weeks.

This present Thursday, the 27th of March, will be Sold by Auction, the Houshold Goods of Godfrey Woodward Esq; himself and Lady being lately Deceas'd; with their Country Goods of his, at his late Dwelling House in Red Lion-street, next Door to the Golden Lamp near Ormond-street, viz. fresh Cloth Bed, and other Beds and Bedding, Peer Glasses, Chimney Glasses, with Cabinets, and Scrutores, with Nine fine Morocco leather Chairs, and a Dressing Chair, and Pictures, some China and Japan. Note, The Sale to begin exactly at Ten a Clock. Note, The House with Couch-House and Stables is to Let; and an Organ made by the Fam'd Mr. Smith, proper for a Chappel or small Church, and a fresh Couch, with a Chariot Chase, and a pair of Horses to be Sold. Catalogues to be had at the said House.

Mr. Paul Girard, at the 3 Flower de Luces, in Charing-Cross near Northumberland House, hath lately received from a Friend of his in Italy, a small Quantity of very rich Distilled Waters, made by Trofime Ribequi, Distiller to his Royal Highness the Duke of Savoy. Every Chest containing 24 Bottles (3 of which a full Quart) and consists only of the 4 most Select Sorts (i. e.) Jessamine fleur, Orangias, Bergamot, and Perficot, and are all of a Spirit, and crown off in the same manner as the Citron Waters of Barbadoes, which they excel in every Quality, and may be seen Day at the House of the said Mr. Paul Girard, and are sold by him in order for a quick Sale only at 3 Guineas per Chest. N. B. This hath been none of this in England, except in Presents, this year past.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* the *Strand*.